

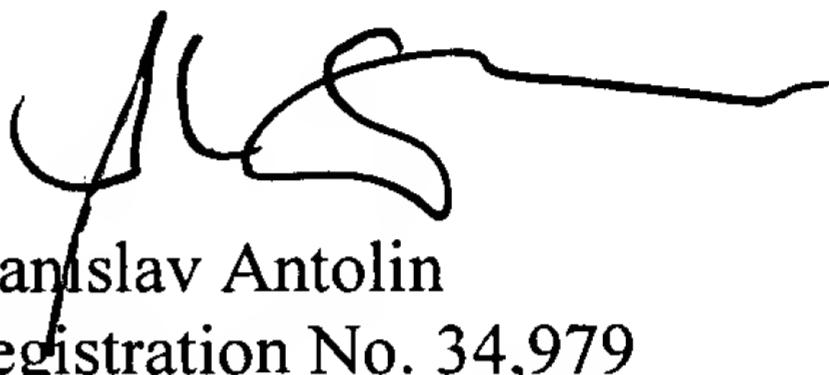
REMARKS

The Office Communication mailed on September 9, 2004 stated that the amendment filed May 17, 2004 withdrawing Claims 1-6 directed to a water sorptive product while pursuing the prosecution of Claims 14-19 directed to a method for improving centrifuge retention capacity property of wet-laid water sorptive product was non-responsive. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants submit that the amendment filed May 17, 2004 withdrawing Claims 1-6 while pursuing the prosecution of Claims 7-19 was responsive. Applicants respectfully submit that there would be no undue burden to the United States Patent and Trademark Office to examine method Claims 14-19 while examining method Claims 7-13. Specifically, Applicants believe that for examination purposes method Claims 14-19 are sufficiently related to method Claims 7-13. Further, Applicants believe that method Claims 14-19 are sufficiently related for examination purposes to product-by-process Claims 1-6.

In light of the above remarks, Applicants submit that Claims 7-19 in this case are in condition for immediate allowance and respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued. However, if any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicants' counsel at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



Stanislav Antolin
Registration No. 34,979

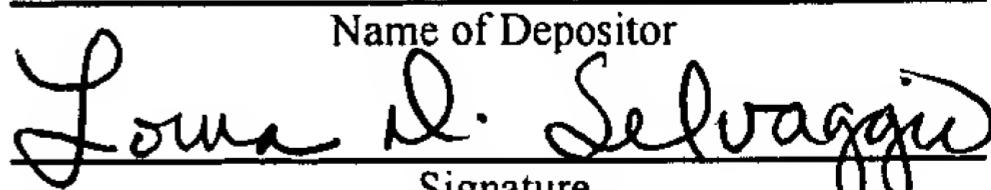
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Date: October 8, 2004

File No. 5003073-005US2

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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